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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

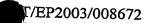
Applicant's or agent's file reference							
Cas 2169PCT/MS	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notif Preliminary	ication of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)				
International application No.	International filing date (day/		Priority date (day/month/year)				
PCT/EP2003/008672	06 août 2003 (06.08	3.2003)	09 août 2002 (09.08.2002)				
International Patent Classification (IPC) or no	ational classification and IPC		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
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 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 							
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	5 sheets, including	ng this cover s	sheet.				
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			on, claims and/or drawings which have been ations made before this Authority (see Rule				
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This report contains indications relati	ing to the following items:						
I Basis of the report							
II Priority							
III Non-establishment of	f opinion with regard to novelty	, inventive ste	ep and industrial applicability				
IV Lack of unity of inver							
V Reasoned statement u	V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;						
VII Certain defects in the	VII Certain defects in the international application						
VIII Certain observations on the international application							
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of	completion o	f this report				
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13 janvier 2004 (13.01.2	004)	17 A	ugust 2004 (17.08.2004)				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authori	zed officer					
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Facsimile No.	Telepho	ne No.					

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

Translation

INTERNATIONAL PRELITARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International	application	No



I. Basis	s of the r	eport
1. With	1 regard t	to the elements of the international application:*
	the inte	ernational application as originally filed
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	pages	1.9
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117:4L		, filed with the letter of, the dwith the demand, the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which all application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
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]] [th th th	endments have resulted in the cancellation of: ne description, pages ne claims, Nos ne drawings, sheets/fig ort has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go ne disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**
Replace in this and 70.	ement she report a .17).	eets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 t sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.
		ana annexea to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: CH312740 cited by the applicant

- 1. In claim 1 it is not clear whether the device works only in conjunction with the watch case to which it is applied or whether the device can be made and used independently of the watch case. Since only the first interpretation is possible (see the description, page 2, lines 26 to 28, or page 5, line 35), the current statement is based on the following interpretation of claim 1: "watch including a device...etc.".
- 2.1. Document D1, which is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (the references between parentheses refer to that document) a watch provided with a device for monitoring whether the watch case is watertight, comprising an aneroid pressure gauge located inside the watch case, and with a system (4) for displaying the pressure inside the case.

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2.2. The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs in that the watch comprises an electronic sensor mounted in the case for measuring fluctuations in the concentration of a gas contained within the case, the results of the measurement taken by the sensor being processed by an electronic processing unit and, if necessary, an alarm signal being triggered.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 2.3. The present invention can thus be considered to address the problem of immediately alerting the wearer of a watch to a defect with respect to watertightness using compact, flexible and inexpensive means.
- The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of 2.4. the present application is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons: although the problem of informing the wearer of a defect with respect to water-tightness is already known in the art (D1), the solution proposed has at least two advantages: firstly, the electronic unit allows the use of means that are more compact, which do not, for example, require mechanical transmission between the pressure gauge and the display system used in D1, that are more flexible, for example with regard to the programmability of the central processing unit, and finally are less expensive to implement in industry. Secondly, although D1 already suggests the use of a visual warning, the electronic unit provides a compact, flexible means of controlling an alarm, it being possible to use electrically triggered alarms.

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This type of alarm would have the added advantage of alerting the wearer even when his attention is not focussed on the watch.

- 2.5. Claims 2 to 5 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.
- 3.1. Independent method claim 6 uses a device that is mounted in the watch casing and carries out the steps characterising the operation of the sensor and the processing unit in claim 2. The subject matter of claim 6 is thus novel and inventive.
- 3.2. Claims 7 to 12 are dependent on claim 6 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.